

# Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

# 2016

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

No experience necessary, one-time volunteers are welcome.

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 9-11:30 AM

### Garlic Mustard Removal & Seep Stopover March 22 / Trotter Road Entrance

Volunteers pull Garlic mustard alongside our trails each March and April. Their goal is to maintain previously cleared patches and also to find and remove any new or remaining satellite mustard invasions. Part of the trip will be spent in the spring seep area: an area historically rich with American woodcock activity. Our guest speaker will tell us all about Timberdoodles, their use of the MPEA, and our efforts to restore proper woodcock habitat.

### Garlic Mustard Pulling & Spring Flower Walk April 26 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

This is our highest-attended event each year. We'll spend a fair amount of time pulling up invasive garlic mustard, but we will also search for and identify many species of spring ephemeral flowers. If we are lucky, our trip will coincide with the gorgeous showing of Virginia bluebell blooms along the river. The walking route is determined by where we find the mustard. Be ready for vigorous garlic mustard pulling paired with a leisurely stroll in the forest. Our guest speaker will speak about the form and structures of flowers.

### Barberry Bustin'

May 24 / Trotter Road Entrance

Japanese barberry is a formidable foe of the environmental area. Controlling this nuisance plant will require continued action over many years. Luckily our steadfast helpers are adept at removing it. On this day, we'll dig, yank and wrench these spiny shrubs from the ground. We might even remove some invasive basketgrass too. Long pants and shirt sleeves are recommended but spine-proof gloves are a must!

### Basketgrass Blitz

June 28 / Trotter Road Entrance

Wavyleaf basketgrass is our newest invasive plant nemesis. Unfortunately, it is spreading quickly. We need your help to remove this pernicious plant but we must be careful about how we go about doing so. If the plants are bearing seeds on this day, we'll have to find something else to remove. Japanese barberry is our backup option.

### Planting Get-Together

September 27 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

Clegg's Meadow, our largest grassland, contains a riparian buffer planting site and a small, cedar glade. Volunteers nurture and protect the saplings throughout the year, but deer and vines always find a way to kill small numbers of the saplings. Come on out and help as we revisit these locations to plant and shelter even more native trees and shrubs. Plus, a guest Botanist will teach us about the different types of trees we will be planting.

### Autumn Olive Annihilation

October 25 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

Autumn olive shrubs are an unwelcome remnant of the game farm that once existed in this area. Olive is a relentless invader so we will be using a variety of control methods over the course of several events. Thankfully, we are making headway in one small area that we will enlarge on this morning. Volunteers will be cutting down and digging up olives to make room for park staff to perform subsequent herbicide treatments.

### Autumn Olive Annihilation #2

November 22 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

We have been fighting invasive olive since the park opened. On this morning we will continue our efforts to rid the MPEA of this woody pest. For this event, work will focus on the same area as October. Visible progress at this particular site means that we should be able to plant natives in place of the unwanted olives next year!

### Information:

Aylene Gard, Master Gardener, 410-992-9889 or  
Jeff Claffy, Assistant Natural Resources Manager, MPEA, 410-313-6209  
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## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROJECT



The Conservation Stewardship Project, a joint program of the Howard County Master Gardeners and the Howard County Recreation & Parks, targets the problem of controlling invasive exotic species in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA). Volunteer work dates occur monthly from March through November, skipping July and August. Each date includes an educational component concerning the target invasive species or work area for the day.

The MPEA, established in 1996, is 1,021 acres in size and contains a diversity of habitat types. There are upland and bottomland hardwood forest, fields, wetlands, ponds and riparian habitats. The primary components of the MPEA's mission are natural resources management, education, research and recreation.

### Driving Directions:

#### South Wind Circle Entrance to MPEA

Route 29 to Route 108 west towards Clarksville, or Route 32 to Route 108 east. Turn onto Trotter Road to South Wind Circle (about 1 mile). Enter the circle and proceed to trailhead on left (opposite Misty Top Path).

#### Trotter Road Entrance to MPEA

From Route 29 at Route 32: Take 32 west to the Great Star Drive exit. Turn right onto Great Star Drive. Then make a right onto Summer Sunrise. Continue to Trotter Road and make a left. Proceed about 1 mile to the parking area on the right just beyond the small traffic circle.

From Route 29 at Route 108: Take Route 108 west and continue past Centennial Lane. Proceed past Harpers Farm Road to Trotter Road and make a left. Continue to the parking area on the left. If you reach the small traffic circle, you've gone too far.

Please carpool.



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